

Appl. No. : 09/874,185
Filed : June 4, 2001

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) since the reference "780" has been used to designate both a "counter" and a "communication tag" in Figure 7. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the drawing so that the communication tags are designated by reference numbers 780A-780C. Replacement sheets for the amended drawings are also submitted concurrently herewith.

In the Office Action, the examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yarin (U.S. Patent No. 6,294,999). The examiner rejected Claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the teachings of the cited Yarin reference in view of Reber (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,632). The examiner rejected Claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the teachings of the cited Yarin reference in view of Bullock (U.S. Patent No. 5,351,186) and Garber (U.S. Patent No. 6,232,870). The examiner rejected Claims 4, 6, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the teachings of the cited Yarin, Bullock and Garber references in view of Rodrian (U.S. Patent No. 4,129,855).

The examiner indicated that Claims 15-18 are allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claims 15-18 in independent

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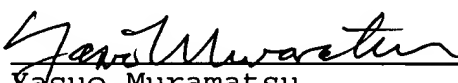
form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that Claims 15-18 are in condition for allowance, and accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

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